

ACS support

Army Community Service offers support groups for teens, single soldiers and married soldiers and their spouses as well as a monthly newcomers orientation to the Baumholder military and local community.

Support groups

For teens, Parenting your Parents is offered every Saturday from 1-3:30 p.m. at ACS Building 8746, second floor. This is an open class to discuss conflicts encountered by teens and to provide coping tools. Teens can come when they can because the content is not serialized. Call ACS for more information or to sign up at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

A Redeployment Support Group for single soldiers meets every day, seven days a week from 3:30-5 p.m. at ACS, building 8746, second floor. The session is moderated by a Social Worker. Call ACS at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188 for more information or just show up.

A Redeployment Support Group for married soldiers and their spouses meets every day, seven days a week from 6-7:30 p.m. at ACS, building 8746, second floor. The session is moderated by a Social Worker. Call ACS at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188 for more information or just show up, with or without your husband or wife.

Get with it NOW

A Newcomer's Orientation and Welcome is scheduled May 10, 11, 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at ACS Building 8746, second floor. Free childcare is provided on a limited basis for this three day class. NOW offers an introduction to agencies

ACS has new finance czar

Army Community Service greeted the new financial readiness manager, Rich Zimmelman, March 21. Zimmelman comes to Baumholder from sunny South Florida where he worked as the financial readiness manager and Army emergency relief officer at Headquarters, U.S. Southern Command.

Rich has an masters degree in business administration with a concentration in finance and holds the Accredited Financial Counselor certification from the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education. He'll be providing group education, one-on-one and family counseling in personal finance subjects such as debt liquidation, credit management, check-book skills, insurance, and financial planning.

If you know you can do better than passbook savings but aren't sure how;

Post notes



Photo by Bianca Bowen

New identity

Returning soldiers from an ADVON team are receive new identification cards and are registered into the new installation access system. Almost all support agencies on post have set up an office at the reintegration facility for the convenience of returning soldiers and to expedite the reintegration process for soldiers.

in the Baumholder military community that are of interest to spouses, such as volunteering, furthering your education, and finding employment. A cultural adaptation session includes information about the German language and customs, riding the public bus and train. There are also field trips to restaurants and Idar-Oberstein. Army Family Team Building Level I, Introduc-

tion to the Military Life-style, is also included in this program. Call ACS to register at mil 485-8188 or civ (06783) 6-8188.

Sports shorts

Players are needed for flag football. Sign ups are now being accepted for the 2004 intramural and community level flag football leagues. For more information call the Baumholder Sports Office at mil 485-6671/7176.

Officials are needed for all sports programs in the 222nd Base Support Battalion.

Players are also needed for

men's and women's community level softball as well as men's and women's intramural level softball.

The registration deadline for the intramural softball league tournament is May 7.

An organizational meeting for the intramural level softball tournament is scheduled for May 17.

An officials clinic will be held May 18-21 at the Hall of Champions.

A community league softball game is scheduled May 23 at Iron Soldier Field.

The 222nd Base Support Battalion softball tournament is May 24.

Buc night supports high school grads

Buccaneer Night, the annual college scholarship fund-raiser for Baumholder American High School's graduating seniors, is April 23 beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Rheinlander Convention Center.

All proceeds from the pirate-theme evening go into a scholarship fund to be distributed among this year's seniors who will be continuing their education after graduation.

All members of the Baumholder community, from young children to adults, will find something to do at Buccaneer Night. Live entertainment, children's games, the Whopper Hopper, cake walk, theme basket auction, silent auction, food sales and raffle giveaways are just

some of the activities taking place.

Throughout the evening, dozens of items contributed by local merchants, organizations and professional sports teams will be raffled or sold in the silent auction.

Two prints to be raffled are "Rolling Start-Iraqi Freedom" by Bobbi Wages and "The Prayer at Valley Forge" by Arnold Friberg.

Some of the teams donating sports memorabilia include the Chicago Bulls, Green Bay Packers, Baltimore Orioles, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, New Orleans Saints, Florida Marlins, Washington Wizards, Cleveland Browns and the L.A. Raiders, just to name a few. Raffle tickets are on sale throughout the community and will be avail-

For additional information call the Sports Office at mil 485-6671.

April luncheon

The next Baumholder Community Spouses Club luncheon will be April 21 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Rheinlander Club. The club will be voting for new board officers.

Reservations must be made with cher.lim@us.army.mil

Youth Services

● May 1, lock-in for Torch Club members at the Underground, 7 p.m. to 8 a.m.

● May 7, Keystone sponsored dance at the Teen Café, no cost, 7-11 p.m.

● May 14, family spaghetti dinner at Neubrück YS, no cost, 6-7.30 p.m.

Participants must be registered with Community Youth Services.

Volunteers

Youth Services is looking for volunteers, youth and adults, to assist with special interest clubs and sporting/recreational events. For more information contact your local youth center or visit Baumholder's youth web site at

www.baumholder.army.mil/youthsite/html/ys.htm

Help needed

Youth Services is always looking for qualified instructors to contract in instructional areas such as: martial arts, gymnastics, music, tennis, etc. For more information call mil 485-7276.

Traffic advisory

Road construction begins April 13 on L-176 at the Hammerstein exit in the direction of Baumholder and is expected to last throughout the month or longer, depending on the weather. L-176 is the main road connecting Idar-Oberstein and Baumholder. Only one lane will be open and a light will be in place to control traffic flow.

able for purchase at Buccaneer Night for \$1 each.

Evening highlight

One of Buccaneer Night's most popular events is the auction, during which elaborate theme gift baskets donated by community organizations and groups will go to the highest bidder.

Baskets with themes such as Americana, Vacation, Polish Pottery and Re-Integration are just a few to be featured. The auction begins at 8:30 p.m.

Admission to Buccaneer Night is free. For more information contact Pam Adams at civ (06783) 990728 or Tina Olsen at civ (06783) 900654. Everyone is invited to a fun-filled, pirate-style evening.

Community honors its volunteers

Baumholder honored its volunteer force during its annual volunteer reception March 26 at the Rheinlander Convention Center.

The first Senior Tactical Commander's Award for Exceptional Service was awarded to Kimberly McHugh. The second went to Sabine Hall and the third was presented to Tina Olson.

McHugh serves the 1-6 Infantry Battalion as the family readiness group leader and company advisor. She also has served as the coffee group leader in the absence of the battalion commander's wife. McHugh is actively involved in schools and has organized several events including Buddy Night, a coffee group for families of deployed soldiers.

In addition to holding three volunteer positions with the Baumholder Community Spouses Club, McHugh also writes a monthly educational column, entitled "The Lifelong Learner" which addresses relevant educational topics for

BCSC members. McHugh also volunteers as a Cub Scout den leader, in St. Michael's Catholic Church hospitality committee, and is the president of the Military Council of Catholic Women.

Hall has served as the Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade FRG leader since September.

Before then, she served as the substitute leader in addition to various other volunteer activities. Hall serves in any capacity needed to ensure that the spouses and soldiers of HHC are well informed. She regularly attends meetings such as LINKS and 2nd Brigade Steering Committee to receive and disseminate information.

Since taking the FRG leader position, Hall has increased the average monthly attendance two fold. In addition to volunteering at the brigade and unit level,

Hall is an active member of the BCSC. She serves as the Thrift Store Coordinator, assuring that the store

is managed and operated in accordance with BCSB bylaws, and USAREUR regulations and policies, and she serves on the Angle Tree committee, which collects and distributes gifts to needy children. Mrs. Halls is an exceptionally dedicated and active volunteer. She is an extremely responsive and proactive volunteer who tries to anticipate needs and meet problems with solutions.

Olson served as the company leader for 2-6 Infantry battalion from January 2003 until October 2003. During this time she organized boxing parties in order to ship needed items to single soldiers down range. She also helped organize donations received from the German community for care packages to be sent down range. Mrs. Olson serves as a classroom volunteer at the Wetzel Elementary School and volunteers her time at Baumholder American High School. She is currently organizing and coordinating Buccaneer Night which benefits graduating

seniors.

Olson is also an Army Family Team Building instructor qualified to teach all levels of training. In addition to the many hats Olson wears she serves as a Senior Enlisted Spouse with the BCSC, and volunteers as a team mom for Child and Youth Service sports and to be an integral part of the Baumholder military community.

Seven individuals received the Baumholder Community Distinguished Volunteer Award. They were: Lisa Box, Renee Redfield, Lisa Proctor, Lisa Jordan, Carla Federovich, John Dye, and Sandy Ewers.

The Outstanding Youth Volunteers for 2003 for the Baumholder Community were: Megan Madison, James Dickerson, Austin Buchs, and Jessica Madison.

In addition to all the individual volunteers, the volunteering efforts of the community's families were also noticed. The Outstanding Volunteer Family Award went to the

Schaffner-Morton family. They are well known in the community for their involvement in the Protestant Chapel, where the father, Scott Morton, is an usher and is starting a Protestant Men of the Chapel group. He is also involved with the family readiness group for his unit and was an active participant in the Army Family Action Plan.

Melissa Schaffner is the president of the Baumholder Community Spouse Club, president of the School Advisory Council, an AFTB instructor, chaperone for school trips, and finance chairperson for Buccaneer night. She also works part time. Ryan Morton, their son, is on the Praise Team of the chapel, active in the chapel youth group and volunteers as a coach with Youth Service.

This past year in addition to volunteering he was one of Baumholder High School's star football players. He is the senior class president and speaks on their behalf at a number of forums.



Photo by Ignacio "Igggy" Rubalcava

Honoring mom and dad

Zacchea Small, a second grade student at Wetzel Elementary School, and Jacqui Gustaferrero, second grade teacher, show off decorations on their classroom door honoring the returning soldiers. Numerous other classroom doors at Wetzel have also been decorated by the students in honor of their



Photo by Ignacio "Igggy" Rubalcava

Baumholder's volunteer force cues up for a noon meal after the annual volunteer appreciation ceremony where numerous community members were recognized for their volunteer efforts this past year.

Wetzel celebrates spring with artwork

The talent of Wetzel Elementary School students and teachers will be on display during a Spring Celebration of the Arts April 28 from 5-7 p.m. in the school multipurpose room.

Student art projects from all grades in a number of mediums including painted masks will present visitors with a colorful visual experience. Also featured will be Young Author original published books and other works in various genres from all grades.

A dramatic presentation based on Shel Silverstein's work will be

presented by the Wetzel Elementary drama club

There will be a talent show featuring a second grade square-dancing routine coached by Wetzel's physical education teacher, Lydia Johnson. A tumbling act is also on the bill. Wetzel's own author-in-residence, first grade teacher, Loretta Hooks, will present some of her original work.

Cake and punch will be served by student council members before the talent show.

For more information call Jackye Wilder at mil 485-6416.

Going postal - community keeps mail moving

Story and photos by
Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Soldiers down range are preparing to come home but there's one thing that is making it to Baumholder sooner than they are—their mail, and a lot of it.

For about a month and a half, mail clerks at the community mail room have been inundated with mail from down range. Two warehouses are now brimming with rows and rows of footlockers and packages. "We have to new locations, two motor pools, where we store the mail," said Idalia Leza, community mail room supervisor.

One is for holding mail for the single Soldiers until they return. "These are Soldiers who have nobody else to pick up their mail here

so they have sent it to themselves. The other warehouse is used to store packages that Soldiers have sent to family members.

"They are mailing an average of three foot lockers and about six parcels per Soldier," said Leza. The average mail shipment from down range is about 20 to 30 foot lockers and about 50 boxes per day. "When we have a big delivery, about once a week, we get about 400 or 500 foot lockers and probably 700 boxes, like last Friday (March 26). We had three trailers come in then. Usually we only get one trailer a day," she said.

The foot lockers alone from that shipment were 180. "Those are just the ones we gave out to family members, not counting the ones that we held back for Soldiers who sent lockers to themselves," said

Leza. There were also 360 parcels in that shipment. "That's just one day's worth of mail," she said. There was also 119 pieces of accountable mail in that shipment. "That's mail that they pay for and it's insured. "That's probably their TVs or their DVDs, stuff that they really want to make sure they get because it's expensive," she said.

All this influx of mail equals more work for the mail room crew, which also means that additional help was needed. "We had to add about four or five more full-time people. Right now I have 15 civilian employees and about five detailed Soldiers," she said.

At the head of the warehouse operation is Cliff Brewer. "He's the one pretty much that is running the warehouse area. Steve Miller and I are also helping with the ware-

house. The rest of the people stay in the mail room. When they have 'day one' at the reintegration facility I also have to have one or two people there. That's why we have the extra people.

"We get about six to ten Soldiers detailed to us Monday through Saturday. They are the ones helping us unload and load the truck because I have to keep the clerks that are trained to put the mail out, in the mail room. I still have the mail room to run," said Leza.

When a big load arrives Leza tries to get about 10 Soldiers to help because once the mail is unload it must be separated between the hold and the issue areas.

The numerous packages and foot lockers are then further separated by company and by unit. "It's not like we get it and just throw it in the warehouse. It has to be separated because there's no way that we're going to find it later," said Leza.

The packages that are going to be given out are separated by numbers and then labeled so they can be found when the family members arrive to pick them up. Cards are also pitched in the family members' mail box so they know they have packages to pick up.

Although the mail operation is working fine and family members are receiving their mail, sometimes they receive more than they care to receive.

"Some of the Soldiers are sending stuff that is really heavy and the spouses, especially those who are pregnant, cannot pick the stuff up," said Leza.

Another glitch is that some Soldiers down range are telling other Soldiers who have no one to collect their mail to send mail to their address and his spouse will pick it up and store it. "When the spouses come over and they have about six

foot lockers and ten boxes waiting for them, they don't want to pick them all up. They say if it's not from my husband I'm not picking it up. That means that we have to take that back into the hold area...and that's really double work for us because when we get it, we separate it, we make a list and we pitch cards in their mailboxes. So when they come over and they don't want it we have to take that back to another area," said Leza.

Many Soldiers, however, are already helping to ease the workload by sending packages from down range addressed to themselves.

"There was a word out there that if they sent packages to themselves, we were going to return it to them and that's not right. If they send it from them to them we'll hold it here until they come back," said Leza.

"So they don't really have to send it to somebody else. They can send it to themselves and we'll hold it. When they get back we'll distribute everything as a unit and as a company because I cannot handle so many Soldiers coming over to the mail room at one time to get their packages, it's just too much.

"For example, when Charlie 2-6 came back, we were in the tent with a list of Soldiers who had packages to pick up and we took them as a company to the warehouse so they could pick up their packages," said Leza.

It's hard to imagine just what the Soldiers are mailing back but Leza says that because the mail service is free for the Soldiers, they are mailing everything under the sun. Because many of the packages are not wrapped well, they often break open and the mail clerks have to try and reassemble the packages.

"I'm getting carpets, paintings, parts of blown up vehicles, pieces of soap, used shampoo bottles, you name it," she said.



Sacks stuffed with packages and mail are unloaded from the mail truck.



Detailed soldiers assist with the sorting and storage of packages at one of the temporary warehouses.



Postal employees and soldiers team up to unload a semi truck that arrived full of packages and foot lockers.



Kelly Nofzinger, a student teacher from Ball State University, assists Wetzel Elementary School second grade students.



Stephen Gardner, a Ball State University Student teacher, introduces a science project to Kindergarten Students at Wetzel Elementary School Students.

Teaching partnership benefits all parties

**Story and photos by
Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava**
222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Students from Ball State University are now performing their final 16-week internship as student teachers at Baumholder schools before becoming eligible to receive a teaching license from the state of Indiana.

A partnership program between Ball State University and Baumholder schools provides new student teachers for Baumholder every semester. The partnership is reaping educational benefits for Baumholder students as well as preparing Ball State students for a future in education.

The program started in August 2003 when the first group of five students from Ball State began their 16-week internship at Wetzel Elementary School. Currently seven Ball State students are finishing their 16-week internship, four are working at Wetzel Elementary School and three at Baumholder American High School. With each group, Ball State sends a supervisor who monitors their progress.

"The purpose of it is to improve student achievement. It was an initiative from the National Education Association, which is the teacher's union at the national level," said Dorrie Meckes, presi-

dent of the Baumholder area education association and a teacher at Wetzel Elementary School. "We went to Washington D.C., met with Sylvia Cydel, and the NEA, she's the one that directs the program from Washington. We got together with different universities and different people who were already involved in professional development schools and learned about what it was and how it operated and then got together with Ball State. They came several times and visited and we liked what they had to offer and they agreed to be our partner," said Meckes.

"It's working out really well. The student teachers are well prepared and the kids are benefiting."

"In the first two to three weeks they do a lot of observation, get used to the rules of the school, get used to the students and get used to the teaching style of the individual classroom teachers. After about the second or third week they're teaching all of the classes that the regular teacher would be teaching," said Barbara Graham, a professor in the department of educational studies at Ball State University who's roll this semester is to supervise the student teachers at Baumholder.

No one could be more pleased to have a helping hand than the Baumholder teachers and princi-

pals. "They are pleased with their preparation before they come here. They're very pleased with the student's (student teachers) willingness to participate in all the activities in the school. They're helping with the art club for example. They're staying after school for a sure start play group. They're involved with student council activities. One of them is coaching soccer. They are involved with the life of the school and the teachers and principals seem happy with that. They are performing a service for the community," said Graham.

Carol Osman, art teacher at Wetzel Elementary School, is one of the several teachers who are pleased with the results of the program because the program has its benefits for the students, the interns and herself. "I'm always delighted to have a student teacher come in because it gives me a chance to reflect on my own practices and I do learn new things from the interns ... regarding teaching methods, their ideas, their take on things and their approach. I have a chance to look at that, reassess my own teaching and then collaborate to create a really strong teaching program," she said.

Serving as student teachers in a community like Baumholder is a unique experience for the student teachers. The eclectic nature of this

community and its unique challenges are not common in a state-side community.

"Student teaching in itself is kind of a different experience to begin with," said Kelly Nofzinger, one of the student teachers from Ball State University working at Wetzel Elementary School. "The kids are different over here. It's kind of a whole different environment to deal with. There are family issues to deal with - their dads being gone and things like that. There are just different problems that you have to deal with here that you wouldn't have back in the states," she said.

"You get a whole new perspective on how to work with children, especially with the emotional problems they're going through. They need more support systems, I feel, at least in my class. So it's something else that you have to work with," said Nofzinger.

"The obvious difference," added

Graham, "Is that this is a community where a large number of people are living in single parent homes under sort of unusual circumstances. The community students themselves are under stress and right now they're very excited because either their mom or dad is coming home soon. So, I don't think that experience is possible for interns in the United States. They don't have this kind of community feeling of pulling together in a crisis situation," said Graham.

"This is my first experience with the military," said Graham. "I have supervised student teachers now for five years and I'm finding that the teachers in this community are very professional. They've taken their responsibilities as sort of a mentor very seriously and have offered extremely constructive support for the Ball State students and it's been a very good experience for all parties," said Graham.